

The George F. Macculloch Mansion
45 Macculloch Avenue
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-658

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The George P. Macculloch Mansion
45 Macculloch Avenue
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Henry Wise Miller

Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. James Otis Post

Date of Erection: 1810 or soon after

Architect: Probably original owner

Builder: George Perot Macculloch* (1775-1858); original owner

Present Condition: Original, built in three successive parts; well maintained by descendants

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - lath and plaster on oak frame studding

Chimneys - brick

Roof - gambrel, tin covered; originally shingle

Portico - gable, frame four-pillar two story

* George Perot Macculloch, b. 1775 in Bombay, Hindustan, d. 1858, in Morristown, N.J., son of William Macculloch who was a member of the John Company of the East India Co. from Creetown, Kurcubright, Scotland. He was sent back to Scotland as a child, brought up at "Barholm", a house on the Solvay River, near Creetown, married Edwina Louisa Saunderson of London, came to U.S.A. about 1805, lived first in a house now owned by the Sherman estate, Speedwell Ave., Morristown, was a scholar and linguist, added third section to the house (here surveyed) for school which he operated a few years, was one of the principal backers of the Morris Canal. (Information written by Mrs. Jas. Otis Post, a great granddaughter, Morristown, June 1941).

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Historical Data:

This imposing residence has escaped the attention it deserves, no reference to it having been found in published accounts of historic Morristown.

From the evidence discovered in a search of the title to this property through successive owners, it appears that this house was erected in or soon after 1810 for George Perot Macculloch(a) and that it has continued to the present, owned and occupied by the descendants of his daughter Mary Louisa and her husband, the Hon. Jacob Welsh Miller.

Thus, by deed of 21 April 1810, John Doughty(b) of Morris Township conveyed to George P. Macculloch of same place, for \$1954.50 a 25-acre tract in Morristown extending southwest some 1850 feet from a frontage of about 260 feet on the center of "a new road called Doughty Street." (present Macculloch Ave.)

(a) "In 1820 or 1821, the Episcopal service was used on Sunday at George P. Macculloch's boarding school by Mr. McCummins, the assistant teacher, an Episcopal Clergyman." (Lewis Historical Publ. Co., History of Morris Co., N.J., 1914, Vol. 1, p. 242). "Successful boys' schools have been taught" in Morristown "by George P. McCulloch" and others. (W. W. Munsell & Co., History of Morris Co., N.J., 1882, p. 151). George P. McCulloch, who conceived and promoted the Morris Canal, was appointed a commissioner, with Charles Kinsey and Thomas Copner, on the project by act of Legislature, 15 Nov. 1822. Their report in 1823 lead to the incorporation thereof as the Morris Canal and Banking Co. in 1824. (Munsell cited, 68).

(b) John Doughty, d. 16 Sept. 1826 ae. 75, Morristown, grad. Kings College, N.Y.C.; Capt. of N.J. Artillery 1776; ditto Continental Army 1777 and served to end of war; and afterward in the Western Territory; Major 1789; Lieut. Col. 1798; resigned 1800 and retired to 400 acre farm on Basking Ridge Rd. (Mt. Kemble Ave.) Morristown. (A. M. Sherman, Historic Morristown, 1905, p. 357. Natl. Cycl. Amer. Biogr. VII, 517).

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Subsequently, by deed of 7 April 1856, Mr. Macculloch and his wife Louisa conveyed to their son-in-law, Jacob W. Miller, all the parties being of Morristown, for \$15,000 the same 25 acre tract (with 1.2 acre adjacent on Boykin St.) "forming the farm or homestead whereon George P. Macculloch now resides," with all and singular the houses, buildings, etc.

Senator Jacob W. Miller(c) who thus came into possession of the Macculloch mansion, by his will dated 4 February 1860 devised to his wife Mary Louisa "my dwelling house with all the lands and tenements thereto attached and the buildings thereon, being the same premises which I purchased of my father-in-law George P. Macculloch, Esq.," Mrs. Miller conveyed to her five children the rear portion of the homestead lot (southwest of Collès Avenue) by her deed of 28 December 1887, retaining the front part on which stands the mansion on Macculloch Avenue, formerly Doughty Street. The Morris County Atlas published in 1887 shows the tract as reduced by previous conveyances of a lot on the south-east side to a daughter, Mrs. F. F. Hitchcock, and one between it and the homestead to a son, Henry W. Miller, which is called "The Moorings."

(c) Jacob Welsh Miller b. in Oct. 1800, German Valley, Morris Co., N.J., son of David and Elisabeth (Welsh) Miller; d. 30 Sept. 1862, Morristown; adm. N.J. Bar 1823 and began practice there "where he soon acquired an extensive and profitable practice, especially in the higher courts;" elected to State Legislature 1832, to State Senate 1838, to U. S. Senate 1840 and 1846; one of incorporators of St. Peter's Ch. 1827; mar. 7 Nov. 1825* Mary Macculloch who d. 1888, dau. of George Perrot and Edwina Louisa (Saunderson) Macculloch of Morristown, and had issue: Edwina L. mar. Edwd. Q. Keasbey, George M. b. 4 May 1832 (atty., director and pres. of railroads), Lindley, Leverett S., Henry W. (pres. Morris Co. Savings Bank), Jacob W. of whom further, Frances F. mar. one Hitchcock, and Elizabeth. (T.F. Chambers, Early Germans of N.J., 1895, pp. 157, 448 and 590. Lewis Hist. Publ. Co., A History of Morris Co., 1914, vol. 2, p. 487). The house at Middle Valley, Morris Co., of David W. Miller, a bro. of Jacob W. abovesaid, has been surveyed as NJ-659.

* Hist. of First Presb. Ch., Morristown, Part II, pp. 151 and 158.

By her will dated 6 April 1888 and proved 29 June next, Mrs. Jacob W. Miller of Morristown, after making bequests of personal estate to the sons and daughters, devised to them the residue thereof and of her real estate (which included the house here considered). By deed of 8 June 1894, these devisees conveyed the part of the tract fronting on Macculloch Street, mentioned above, to The Miller Estate Association and that corporation conveyed to one of them, the son Jacob W. Miller, by deed of October 1905, the part thereof having a 220 feet frontage on Macculloch Avenue and a depth of 468 feet to Collos Avenue as then laid out across the original tract.

Jacob William Miller, who thus acquired the mansion house of his grandfather Macculloch, died 8 March 1918 at his residence in New York City, and by April following, his widow and his daughter Mrs. J. Otis Post were residing at the homestead in Morristown. Mrs. Miller dying in October 1940, the house is owned by her son Henry Wise Miller, and occupied by her son-in-law and daughter, James Otis Post, F.A.I.A.* and Mrs. Post at the time of our survey photographing of the mansion and of this writing.

Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Morris County by Thomas J. Riley, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 26 July 1940

* Mr. Post is head of the firm George B. Post & Sons, Archts., N.Y.C.

Note:

Actual survey measurements for drawings of this house being beyond the capacity of the limited personnel of our Morris County office (now closed) this photo-data book comprised the survey treatment of this priority

Leuris D. Cook

Supervising Historian 23 June 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer